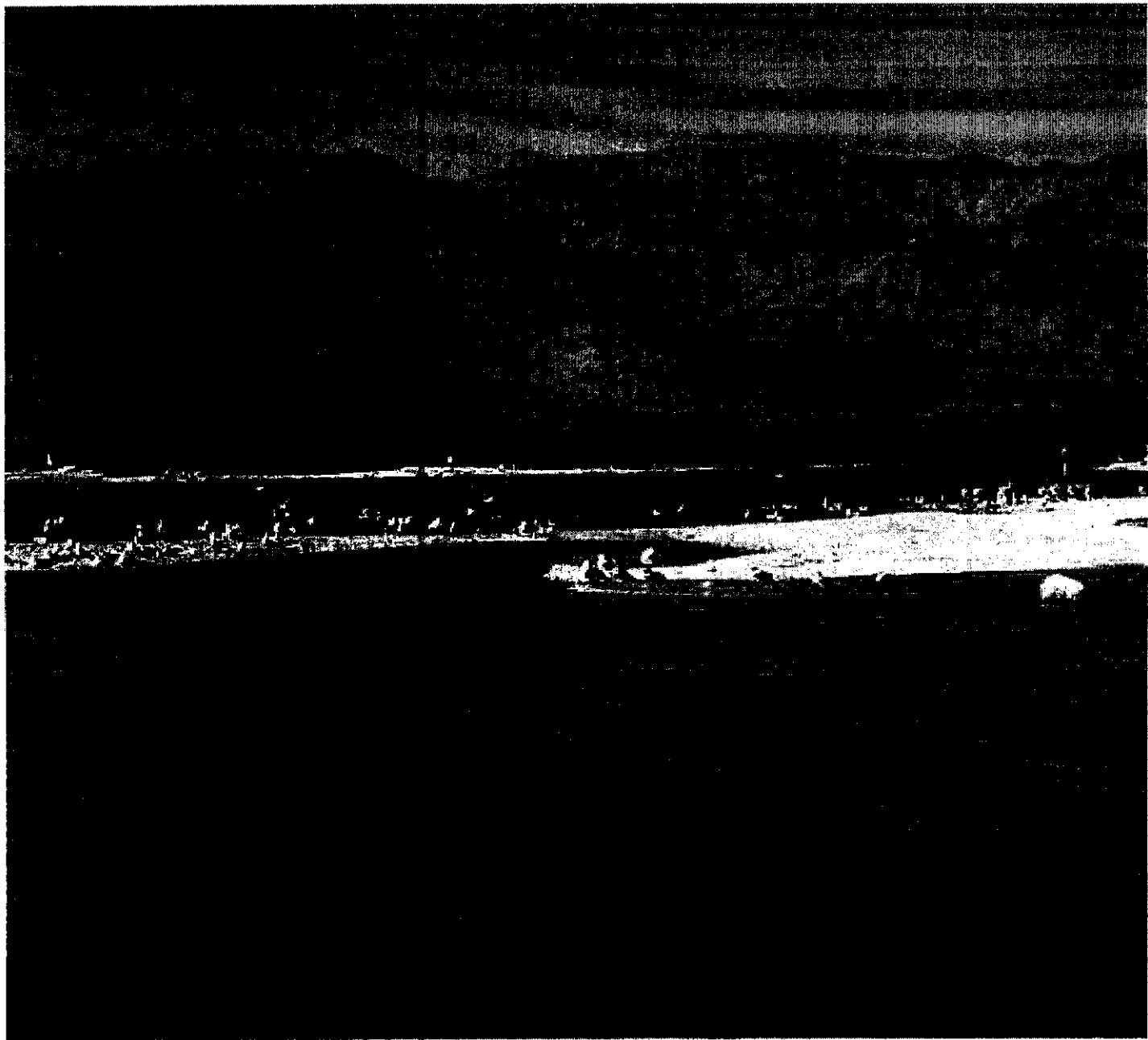


# WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN

## COLORADO RIVER BASIN- REGION 7

*Includes Amendments Adopted by the Regional Board through May 2002*



CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

Armstrong document is on CD.

### FOREWORD

On November 17, 1993 the Regional Board adopted Resolution No. 93-145 which approved this 1993 Basin Plan. This Basin Plan was subsequently approved by the State Water Resources Control Board on February 17, 1994 (Resolution No. 94-18). The California Office of Administrative Law approved the adoption of the 1993 Basin Plan on August 3, 1994. This Basin plan now supersedes the previous (1991) Basin Plan.

This Basin Plan was prepared by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, in accordance with criteria contained in the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the Federal Clean Water Act, and other pertinent state and federal rules and regulations.

The intent of this plan is to provide definitive guidelines, and give direction to the full scope of Regional Board activities that serve to optimize the beneficial uses of state waters within the Colorado River Basin Region of California by preserving and protecting the quality of these waters.

This plan is also subject to review by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The plan is in itself not a final statement on regional water quality planning, but is subject to continuous review, and update as necessary. Updated sections of the plan may appear as periodic Basin Plan amendments, which are also subject to approval by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Office of Administrative Law.

This Basin Plan includes amendments adopted by the Regional Board through May 2002.

### **COVER: PHOTO OF THE SALTON SEA**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION.....	1-1
I. THE REGIONAL BOARD.....	1-1
II. FUNCTION OF THE BASIN PLAN .....	1-1
III. LEGAL BASIS AND AUTHORITY .....	1-2
A. Federal Requirements.....	1-2
B. California Statutory and Administrative Laws.....	1-3
C. Other Planning Agencies .....	1-5
IV. THE PLANNING PROCESS .....	1-5
A. Basin Plan Amendment Process .....	1-5
B. Triennial Review Process .....	1-6
V. THE COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION.....	1-6
A. Geographical Setting.....	1-6
B. Geology .....	1-7
C. Major Hydrologic Features.....	1-7
D. Climate.....	1-8
E. Fish and Wildlife Resources .....	1-8
VI. PLANNING AREAS .....	1-9
A. Lucerne Valley Planning Area.....	1-9
B. Hayfield Planning Area.....	1-10
C. Coachella Valley Planning Area .....	1-12
D. Anza-Borrego Planning Area .....	1-13
E. Imperial Valley Planning Area.....	1-13
F. Salton Sea Planning Area.....	1-14
G. East Colorado River Planning Area.....	1-14
 CHAPTER 2 - BENEFICIAL USES .....	2-1
I. PAST OR HISTORICAL BENEFICIAL USES .....	2-1
II. PRESENT BENEFICIAL USES .....	2-2
III. POTENTIAL BENEFICIAL USES .....	2-2
IV. SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER POLICY.....	2-3
A. Surface and Ground Waters Where: .....	2-3
B. Surface Waters Where:.....	2-3
C. Ground Waters Where: .....	2-3
D. Regional Board Authority to Amend Use Designations .....	2-3
TABLE 2-1: Definitions of the Beneficial Uses of Water .....	2-5
TABLE 2-2: Beneficial Uses of Surface Waters in the East Colorado River Basin Region.....	2-7
TABLE 2-3: Beneficial Uses of Surface Waters in the West Colorado River Basin Region.....	2-9
TABLE 2-4: Beneficial Uses of Waters From Spring in the Colorado River Basin Region.....	2-13
TABLE 2-5: Beneficial Uses of Ground Waters in the Colorado River Basin .....	2-18
 CHAPTER 3 - WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES.....	3-1
I. GENERAL OBJECTIVES.....	3-1
II. GENERAL SURFACE WATER OBJECTIVES.....	3-1

A.	Aesthetic Qualities.....	3-1
B.	Tainting Substances.....	3-2
C.	Toxicity.....	3-2
D.	Temperature.....	3-2
E.	pH .....	3-2
F.	Dissolved Oxygen .....	3-2
G.	Suspended Solids and Settleable Solids.....	3-2
H.	Total Dissolved Solids .....	3-2
I.	Bacteria.....	3-3
J.	Biostimulatory Substances.....	3-4
K.	Sediment.....	3-4
L.	Turbidity .....	3-4
M.	Radioactivity .....	3-4
N.	Chemical Constituents .....	3-4
O.	Pesticide Wastes.....	3-5
<b>III.</b>	<b>SPECIFIC SURFACE WATER OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>3-5</b>
A.	Colorado River.....	3-5
B.	New River .....	3-6
C.	Salton Sea .....	3-8
D.	Irrigation Supply Canals .....	3-8
<b>IV.</b>	<b>GROUND WATER OBJECTIVES.....</b>	<b>3-8</b>
A.	Taste and Odors.....	3-9
B.	Bacteriological Quality.....	3-9
C.	Chemical and Physical Quality .....	3-9
D.	Brines.....	3-9
E.	Radioactivity .....	3-9
F.	Ground Water Overdraft.....	3-9
 CHAPTER 4 - IMPLEMENTATION .....		4-1
<b>I.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
A.	Regional Board Goals and Management Principals .....	4-1
B.	General Implementation.....	4-1
<b>II.</b>	<b>POINT SOURCE CONTROLS.....</b>	<b>4-2</b>
A.	Geothermal Discharges .....	4-3
B.	Sludge Application.....	4-3
C.	Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants.....	4-3
D.	Wastewater Reclamation and Reuse .....	4-3
F.	Stormwater .....	4-4
G.	Brine Discharges .....	4-4
H.	Septic Systems.....	4-5
<b>III.</b>	<b>NONPOINT SOURCE CONTROLS .....</b>	<b>4-5</b>
A.	Agriculture.....	4-7
B.	State Water Quality Certification .....	4-7
<b>IV.</b>	<b>SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS .....</b>	<b>4-8</b>
A.	New River Pollution by Mexico .....	4-8
B.	Salton Sea .....	4-11
C.	Toxicity Objective Compliance .....	4-13
D.	Disposal of Waste to Indian Land .....	4-13
<b>V.</b>	<b>ACTIONS FOR TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS .....</b>	<b>4-14</b>
A.	New River Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load .....	4-14

Table 4-1: New River Pathogen TMDL Elements.....	4-14
B. Alamo River Sedimentation/Siltation TMDL .....	4-17
Table 4-1: Alamo River Sedimentation/Siltation TMDL Elements .....	4-18
Table 4.1A: Waste Load Allocations for Point Sources in the Alamo River Watershed.....	4-22
Table 4-2: Interim Numeric Targets for Attainment of the TMDL .....	4-23
VI. ACTIONS OF OTHER AUTHORITIES .....	4-29
CHAPTER 5 - PLANS, POLICIES AND ISSUES .....	
I. STATE BOARD PLANS AND POLICIES .....	5-1
A. Resolution No. 68-16 .....	5-1
B. Water Quality Control.....	5-1
C. Thermal Plan .....	5-1
D. Powerplant Cooling .....	5-1
E. Water Reclamation.....	5-1
F. Shredder Waste .....	5-1
G. Nonpoint Source Management Plan.....	5-1
H. Sources of Drinking Water Policy .....	5-1
II. REGIONAL BOARD POLICIES .....	5-1
A. Sewerage Systems .....	5-1
B. Sewage Disposal from Land Developments .....	5-1
C. MOU with the Bureau of Land Management.....	5-1
D. Water Quality Limited Segments .....	5-2
E. MOA's .....	5-2
F. Water Quality Assessment.....	5-2
G. Agricultural Drainage.....	5-2
H. Waiver for Waste Discharges .....	5-2
III. REGIONAL BOARD ISSUES.....	5-2
A. Septic System Impacts to Ground Water Basins .....	5-2
B. Beneficial Use Designations of Aquifers.....	5-2
C. Geothermal Fluids .....	5-2
CHAPTER 6 - SURVEILLANCE, MONITORING AND WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT .....	
I. STATEWIDE MONITORING.....	6-1
II. REGIONAL BOARD MONITORING .....	6-2
A. Surface Water Monitoring .....	6-2
TABLE 6-1: Primary Network Stations .....	6-2
B. Compliance Monitoring .....	6-3
C. Complaint Investigation.....	6-6
D. Intensive Surveys .....	6-6
TABLE 6-2: Preliminary Biomonitoring Screening Locations .....	6-6
E. Toxic Substances Monitoring.....	6-9
TABLE 6-3:TSM Program – Station Sampling Histories .....	6-9
III. WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES.....	6-10
IV. QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALITY CONTROL.....	6-10

#### APPENDIX A - Regional Ground Water Basin (Hydrologic Unit) Map and Index

- MAP A - Foldout Regional Ground Water Basin (Hydrologic Unit) Map  
 MAP B - Foldout Regional Aquifer Map

"Page intentionally left blank"

6504

"Page intentionally left blank"

**6505**

Page on Disk

6506